

Claims

We claim:

1. A method of displaying content recommendations to a user, the method

5 comprises:

detecting when a user changes channels;

when the user changes channels, providing a recommendation of viewable content; and

allowing the user to select the recommended content.

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2. A method of providing a user perceptible indicator of content items that can be viewed by a user, the method comprising:

receiving at least one recommendation of content that can be viewed by the user;

based on the at least one recommendation, generating the user perceptible

15 indicator of content, wherein the generating occurs at a change in system state; and

allowing the user to interact with the user perceptible indicator.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein the change in system state comprises activation of a client device.

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4. The method of claim 1 wherein the change in system state comprises activation of a television viewing system.

25 5. The method of claim 1 wherein the change in system state comprises activation of a set top box.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein the change in system state comprises a channel change event.

30 7. The method of claim 1 wherein the interacting further comprises:

responding to user signals generated by a user-operated remote control device.

8. The method of claim 1 wherein the receiving of at least one recommendation further comprises:

responding to information from a rating engine, recommendation engine, or

5 profile engine.

9. The method of claim 1 wherein the receiving further comprises:

generating the at least one recommendation based on any of local or remote content.

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10. The method of claim 1 wherein the receiving further comprises:

generating the at least one recommendation based on any of content available immediately or content available in the future.

15 11. A method of providing a user perceptible indicator of content items that can be viewed by a user, the method comprising:

monitoring content viewed by a plurality of users;

based on the content viewed by a plurality of users, generating the user perceptible indicator of content, wherein the generating occurs at a change in system state; and

allowing the user to interact with the user perceptible indicator.

20 12. The method of claim 11 wherein the monitoring further comprises:

detecting content viewed by a plurality of users based on a predetermined number of users.

25 13. The method of claim 11 wherein the change in system state comprises activation of a client device.

30 14. The method of claim 11 wherein the change in system state comprises activation of a television viewing system.

15. The method of claim 11 wherein the change in system state comprises activation of a set top box.

5 16. The method of claim 11 wherein the change in system state comprises a channel change event.

17. The method of claim 11 wherein the interacting further comprises:
responding to user signals generated by a user-operated remote control device.

10 18. A system for displaying content recommendations to a viewer, the system comprises:

means for detecting when a viewer changes channels;

when the viewer changes channels, means for providing a recommendation of

15 viewable content; and
means for allowing the viewer to select the recommended content.

19. A system for providing a user perceptible indicator of content items that can be viewed by a user, the system comprises:

20 means for receiving at least one recommendation of content that can be viewed by the user;

means for generating, based on the at least one recommendation the user perceptible indicator of content, wherein the generating occurs at a change in system state; and

25 means for allowing the user to interact with the user perceptible indicator.

20. A system for providing a user perceptible indicator of content items that can be viewed by a user, the system comprises:

means for monitoring content viewed by a plurality of users;

means for generating, based on the content viewed by a plurality of users, the user perceptible indicator of content, wherein the generating occurs at a change in system state; and

means for allowing the user to interact with the user perceptible indicator.